

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017**

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**HOUSE BILL 607\***

Short Title: Knight-LeCount Advocacy for Marrow Ed. & Reg. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representative Willingham.

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

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Referred to: Health, if favorable, Appropriations

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April 10, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER AS MARROW DONATION  
2 AWARENESS MONTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
3 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, TO RAISE  
4 AWARENESS ABOUT BONE MARROW DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION  
5 AND TO IMPLEMENT A PILOT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE NORTH CAROLINA  
6 RESIDENTS TO JOIN A BONE MARROW DONATION REGISTRY.  
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8       Whereas, there are thousands of persons across the United States with blood cancers  
9 such as leukemia and lymphoma, as well as sickle cell disease and other diseases, who could  
10 benefit from receiving a lifesaving bone marrow or peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC)  
11 transplant; and

12       Whereas, the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) operates the "Be the Match  
13 Registry," and the first step to becoming a donor is to join this registry; and

14       Whereas, all that is required to register with the NMDP is to complete the online  
15 form, order a registration kit, follow the instructions in the kit to collect a swab of cheek cells,  
16 and return the kit to the NMDP in order to determine any potential patient matches; and

17       Whereas, a potential donor who matches a patient is asked to make either a bone  
18 marrow or PBSC donation; and

19       Whereas, bone marrow donation is a surgical outpatient hospital procedure in which  
20 the donor receives anesthesia and feels no pain, and the donated liquid marrow replaces itself  
21 completely within four to six weeks; and

22       Whereas, PBSC donation is a nonsurgical procedure that takes place at a blood  
23 center or outpatient hospital unit and involves a transplant of cells from circulating blood, with  
24 the donor receiving injections of a drug called Filgrastim over a five-day period leading up to  
25 donation in order to increase the number of blood-forming cells in the bloodstream, and then  
26 having blood removed through a needle in one arm and passed through a machine that  
27 separates out the blood-forming cells, with the remaining blood returned to the donor through  
28 the other arm; and

29       Whereas, the donor's blood-forming cells return to normal levels within four to six  
30 weeks; and

31       Whereas, all medical costs for the donation procedure are covered by the NMDP or  
32 the donor's health insurance, as are travel expenses and other nonmedical costs, leaving only  
33 the potential cost to the donor time taken off from work; Now, therefore,

34 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:



1           **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Knight-LeCount  
2 Advocacy for Marrow Education and Registration Act" or "KLAMER Act."

3           **SECTION 2.** Chapter 103 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
4 section to read:

5 **"§ 103-15. Marrow Donation Awareness Month.**

6           The month of December of each year is designated as Marrow Donation Awareness Month  
7 in North Carolina."

8           **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
9 Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of twenty-six thousand dollars  
10 (\$26,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to be used for the following purposes:

- 11           (1) To make available free of charge to the general public on its Internet Web  
12 site printable publications, in a format that can be downloaded, containing  
13 medically accurate information regarding bone marrow donation and  
14 transplantation that is sufficient to allow an individual to make an informed  
15 decision about whether to participate in a local or national bone marrow  
16 donation registry.
- 17           (2) To raise public awareness about bone marrow donation and transplantation.
- 18           (3) To encourage North Carolina residents to consider joining a bone marrow  
19 donation registry.

20           **SECTION 4.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
21 Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of two hundred fifty thousand  
22 dollars (\$250,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to be used exclusively to implement a bone  
23 marrow donation pilot program designed to encourage North Carolina residents to register for  
24 the National Marrow Donor Program's "Be the Match Registry."

25           **SECTION 4.(b)** The Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration  
26 with the Department of Motor Vehicles, shall establish two program sites to implement the  
27 pilot program, one of which shall be Edgecombe County Department of Motor Vehicles and  
28 the other of which shall be Wake County Department of Motor Vehicles. For the 2017-2018  
29 fiscal year, each site shall be awarded one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) to  
30 conduct the pilot program.

31           **SECTION 4.(c)** By February 1, 2018, the Department of Health and Human  
32 Services shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human  
33 Services and the Fiscal Research Division on the status of the pilot program authorized by  
34 subsection (b) of this section. By May 1, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services  
35 shall provide a final report of the program authorized by subsection (b) of this section to the  
36 Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research  
37 Division.

38           **SECTION 5.** Sections 3 and 4 of this act become effective July 1, 2017. The  
39 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.